

**GRAYS HARBOR
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
MEETING MINUTES
August 16, 2018**

1. CALL TO ORDER

- The meeting, held in the Port of Grays Harbor Commission Chambers, Aberdeen, was called to order by Chairman Jim Sorensen at 7:00 p.m. Flag salute was held and attendance was called.

2. ATTENDANCE

- Members:
 - City Councilmember Diane Solem (City of Ocean Shores)
 - City Councilmember Margo Shortt (City of Aberdeen)
 - Mayor Rob Bearden (City of Westport)
 - City Councilmember Carl Sperring (City of Cosmopolis)
 - Mayor Jim Sorensen (City of Elma)
 - Mayor Vini Samuel (City of Montesano)
 - Deputy Executive Director Leonard Barnes (Port of Grays Harbor)
 - Library Manager Mary Thornton (Timberland Library)
 - Public Works Director Todd Baun (City of McCleary)
 - Community Services Director Michael Cardwell, AICP (Quinault Indian Nation)
- Staff:
 - Vicki Cummings, Executive Director
 - Zana Dennis, Office Coordinator
- Guests:
 - Grays Harbor Community Hospital Michael Bruce, Position 2 Commissioner
 - Grays Harbor Community Hospital Robert Torgenson, Position At Large 1
 - Grays Harbor Community Hospital's Anne Marie Wong, MD
 - Grays Harbor Community Hospital's Melanie Brandt, CNO
 - Grays Harbor Community Hospital's Nancee Long, Director of Marketing & PR

A quorum was established.

3. PRESENTATION

- **Grays Harbor Community Hospital**

Commissioner Michael Bruce introduced Dr. Anne Marie Wong, Melanie Brandt and Nancee Long who presented a power point presentation outlining how the hospital is working to balance their budget.

 - The hospital has been working with Navigant Consulting to help them figure out how to balance the hospital's budget.
 - Revenues are increasing with half of the plan being implemented and the other half in the process of being implemented.

- The hospital has received many awards for their care and practices and continues to have good numbers in all areas.
- The hospital does general surgery and is a level 3 trauma center.
- The hospital paid \$1.2 million in taxes to the city, county and state last year.
- The hospital employs 600 people and is one of the largest employers in GH.
- In 2017 the hospital paid over \$27 million in care costs, due to low reimbursement from the over 80% of medicaid/medicare payers in GH.
- 83 rural hospitals have closed since January of 2018 and they do not want Grays Harbor Community Hospital to be one of them.
- Encourages the community to use the hospital and not go out of town for care.

4. **GHCOG BUSINESS**

➤ **Action: Approval of Current Meeting Agenda**

Chairman, Jim Sorensen, asked for approval of the current meeting Agenda.

Michael Cardwell made a motion to approve; second, Todd Baun. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Action: Approval of June 2018 Minutes**

Chairman, Jim Sorensen, asked for approval of the June 2018 Minutes.

Michael Cardwell made a motion to approve; second, Leonard Barnes. Motion passed unanimously.

➤ **Administrative Sub-Council Report**

Chairman, Jim Sorensen, reported that June claims and June payroll were reviewed and approved.

➤ **Action: Approval of August Claims Batch #18-08 and August Payroll**

Chairman, Jim Sorensen, asked for approval of the August Claims, Batch #18-08 in the amount of \$31,019.45 and August 2018 Payroll in the amount of \$14,712.08.

Michael Cardwell made a motion to approve; second, Leonard Barnes. Motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

➤ **DISCUSSION: Potential New GHCOG Administration Project**

WSDOT has historically served as the lead agency for the Peninsula Regional Transportation Planning Organization (PRTPO). As of next year they will no longer be fulfilling those duties. GHCOG has been in discussion with the PRTPO regarding our interest in taking on the lead agency role. GHCOG would eventually move from the Southwest RTPO to the Peninsula RTPO for congruency. This change would only occur if the budget numbers support the work and the changeover benefits GHCOG membership. Approval of the County Commissioners will be needed. Vicki met with a review committee from the PRTPO and will meet with them again September 6th. Their policy board may make a decision at their September 21st meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

➤ **DISCUSSION: Regional Transportation Plan Roadway Emphasis Areas**

Vicki has been working with CWCOG and our local Technical Advisory Committee, which is made up of Public Works employees from each member entity, to update

Chapter 4 of the Regional Transportation Plan. The RTP is a five county mandated plan that is a basis for future funding. The emphasis areas highlight deficiencies and needs in each of the five counties that make up the SWRTPO.

➤ **DISSCUSSION: 2018 Financials Update**

Zana presented the GHCOG financials as of July 31, 2018. The board was provided the current balance sheet, expense and revenue statements and Zana verbally walked them through the current state of the GHCOG financials for 2018. GHCOG is under or at budget in all expense categories and revenues are being received as expected.

➤ **ACTION: Approval of Resolution #628, Grays Harbor Council of Governments 2019 Preliminary Budget**

Vicki presented and outlined GHCOG's 2019 Preliminary Budget. The preliminary budget included a 3% dues increase for all participating members. Members are seeing the similar increases in revenue and expenditures to account for the EPA Brownfields and Grays Harbor Transportation Model grant funds that will be passing through GHCOG. Budget letters will be going out by the end of August, but we have until the December meeting to make changes to the budget.

Michael Cardwell made a motion to approve; second, Leonard Barnes. Motion passed unanimously.

5. Member Action Request

- None

6. ALL- STAFF REPORT

➤ **Vicki Cummings, Executive Director**

- Gave an update on the GH Transportation Model, as Theresa is on vacation.
- Vicki also thanked Aberdeen and the County for helping with the traffic counts.
- Vicki reminded the board the Public Funding Newsletter was out and that TIB and Ecology had grant opportunities that members may be interested in.
- Theresa has updated the Demographics Highlights Brochure.
- EPA grant has identified 10 sites in Aberdeen/Hoquiam for Phase 1 assessments and an Area-Wide Assessment is recommended for Cosi.
- Reviewed and commented on GHATA Transit Development Plan.
- Heron Street Bridge meetings continue and they are working with the East Aberdeen project in mind.
- Met with the County in regard to their park and recreation planning needs.
- Met with .09 committee to finalize project recommendations for Commissioners.
- Transportation Alternative grant opportunity should be open in November.
- Robert Stevens, the Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments Transportation Planner, will be at our September GHCOG meeting to talk about the TA funds.

➤ **Zana Dennis, Office Coordinator**

- Received a clean audit for 2017 with no findings and no recommendations.
- Researched proposed 2019 benefits and taxes to prepare preliminary budget.
- Prepared the 2019 Preliminary Budget.
- Attended webinar on new WA State Family & Medical Leave "tax" starting 2019.

7. **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS**

- None

8. **MEMBER/PUBLIC COMMENT**

- Quinault Indian Nation, Community Services Director Michael Cardwell, AICP
 - Quinault is still the #1 employer in Grays Harbor County.
 - Casino upgrade is complete and the new buffet is open.
 - Michael graduated from Leadership Grays Harbor.
 - Budget season is in full swing.
 - Managing four Rez Racer buses.
 - Michael will officially be retiring at the end of fiscal year 2020.
- City of Montesano, Mayor Vini Samuel
 - Citywide garage sale is the weekend of August 18th.
 - The Full Monte Music Festival is August 24th and 25th.
 - Completing the 3rd year of Saturday Morning Market.
 - Mayor Samuel completed a City Brochure, inspired by Mayor Dingler.
 - The Traffic Revision Project is starting in a couple weeks.
 - Attended a Rural Economic Development Conference in Portland.
 - Completed the improvements on Marcy Street.
 - Had ribbon cutting on completion of Pioneer Avenue. Mayor encourages them.
 - Montesano will be having a business forum on October 15th.
 - Encourages board to come look at low cost cement repaving on Spruce Street.
- City of Ocean Shores, City Councilmember Diane Solem
 - Signed interlocal with Westport and Transit to study potential reinstatement of passenger ferry service.
 - 125 home sales in last quarter.
 - 122 lots sold so far in 2018.
 - Council is discussing overnight rental regulations due to influx of sales.
 - Jeff Daniels will replace Holly Plackett's seat on the council until next election.
 - 12th Fan Fest is the weekend of August 18th.
- Timberland Regional Library, Library Manager Mary Thornton
 - Working on 2019 Budget.
 - Summer Reading Program has been well attended and continues to grow.
 - TRL hopes to expand the adult portion of the Reading Program in 2019.
 - Hoquiam Library is in Phase 2 of its renovation. Scheduled completion Dec 2018.
 - Doing STEM projects in Pacific Beach and would like to expand to Taholah.
- City of Westport, Mayor Rob Bearden
 - Passed Resolution to get the city recognized as a Coastguard USA City.
 - Celebrating 120 years at the Grays Harbor Lighthouse.
 - Art Festival is the weekend of August 18th.
 - Ribbon Cutting on August 24th for the Smart City Pilot Program.
 - Tuna season has is starting.
- Port of Grays Harbor, Deputy Executive Director Leonard Barnes
 - Marine Terminals are busy. AGP on track to have largest year ever in GH.

- Dredging continues in town and out at the Westport Marina.
 - New restroom facilities for Westport Marina will start in November.
 - Hesco is looking at a possible expansion.
 - Overstock is up to 300 employees, 90% of which are from GH.
 - Signed a few new leases at the Satsop Business Park.
 - There are 2 more Satsop walking tours left this summer.
 - Friends Landing has had a busy summer. Getting new play equipment in fall.
 - The 28th Street boat launch improvements should be completed by mid-Sept.
 - Phil Papac is the new Port Commissioner, but it is sad to see Chuck leave.
 - Port is doing a quarterly financial workshop at Satsop, as well as working on an East County Strategic Plan.
- City of Aberdeen, City Councilmember Margo Shortt
- The cities summer events have mostly concluded for 2018.
 - Some downtown buildings are getting new occupants.
 - The Fire Union is promoting the consolidation of Aberdeen and Hoquiam Depts.
- City of McCleary, Public Works Director Todd Baun
- Brenda Orffer is the new Mayor and 1st female Mayor in McCleary.
 - August 24th is movie night at the park they will be playing original Willy Wonka.
 - August 25th will be the 2nd Saturday Market event in McCleary.
 - WSDOT's SR8 fish passage project is ahead schedule. May be done by October.
 - Citywide garage sale is the 3rd weekend in September.
- City of Cosmopolis, Councilmember Carl Sperring
- The dirt work at Mill Creek will be done by end of August.
 - They are then required to study the dam and its ripples, etc.
 - Houses are flying off the market.
 - Seeing lots of permits for housing improvements, added garages etc.
 - Festival in the Park is the weekend of September 8th.
 - Have already saved more than the city spent on LED lighting.
- City of Elma, Mayor Jim Sorensen
- Drove the kiddy train at the Grays Harbor County Fair.
 - Heat on the Street was well attended this year and continues to grow.
 - Kilmer Vietnam Veteran pinning at the Elma Eagles on August 22nds at 5pm.

9. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

GRAYS HARBOR COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

115 S. Wooding St.
Aberdeen, Washington 98520

Jim Sorensen
Chair

Date

Vicki Cummings
Executive Director

Date